Sufferings of economic migrants abroad

1089. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that economic migrants contribute significantly to country's economy, but these migrants continue to suffer human rights violations while in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that such migrants are fully briefed through authorized agents about the real benefits they are going to get while abroad and the sufferings they may be subjected to based upon our experience gained during the last decade; and

(c) whether our Foreign Mission would be made more sensitive towards such cases whenver these are brought to their notice either by such migrants or otherwise from any source and provide immediate legal help and necessary assistance?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir, the Indian Migrant workers have remitted an amount of US$ 49753 million during last 3 years, Sporadic cases of violations of contractural obligations and ill-treatment by the foreign employers come to notice of the Indian Missions who promptly resolve them by contacting the employers and the local authorities.

(b) Under the existing provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, a recruiting agent is under obligation to brief the migrant Indian worker while going abroad about the ground realities of the country of emigrations, problems they are likely to face, the life style, customs, religion, practices, do's and don'ts in the country of the emigration. The recruiting agents furnish affidavit in this regard while seeking emigration clearance.

(c) Whenever complaints are received the respective Missions take up the matter with the foreign employers as well as local Government authorities. The Missions provide legal assistance to the Indian workers for claiming their dues from the employers/sponsors, before the local judicial forums. Legal counselling sessions are also carried out by the Indian Missions.